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NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE  
FLOWER AND FIFTH AVENUE HOSPITALS  
FIFTH AVENUE AT ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH STREET  
NEW YORK 29, NEW YORK

CARDIOPULMONARY PROGRAM

January 12, 1965

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Michael DeBakey, M. D.  
Professor and Chairman  
Department of Surgery  
Baylor University School of  
Medicine  
Houston, Texas

Dear Doctor DeBakey:

First, please let me congratulate you on the wonderful report that your committee brought in for the expansion of research and patient care in "Heart, Cancer and Stroke". Your imaginative and progressive approach to this problem is characteristic and is in line with all I have learned about you in the last thirty years since we first corresponded about sarcoma of the lung.

Possibly you may recall that we met during World War II when you visited the field hospital where I was working near Remagen. Of course, we have met at many meetings since.

I have just been appointed Professor of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery at New York Medical College and have been put in charge of this section of the Department of Surgery at Metropolitan Medical Center. I hope that our Institution can become a center for the implementation of your wonderful ideas. Incidentally, I hope you personally will keep a tight control on each center that is set up to make certain it conforms to your own extremely high standards. Each one will benefit from your superlative administrative ability, your constant search for improvement in all aspects of medical research and practice, your imagination and your broad concepts.

I am enclosing clipped pages from the announcement booklet of the medical college which may give you information you would like about the hospitals of the Metropolitan Medical Center. We have at present 3,6000 beds. At least 3000 are filled with indigent patients, mostly with "heart, cancer and stroke" for whom we have been eager to provide the kind of care you have outlined. We have been unable to do so because the City of New York cannot afford to provide the money which is required for special equipment and special staff personnel.

Our Medical School is fully accredited and has a student body of 500. We have over 200 residents in all fields at the various hospitals. Our Resident Training Program in Cardio Thoracic Surgery is fully accredited and we have four residents in training.

Our new Cohen Research Building has an entire floor assigned to Cardio-Vascular Surgery and I shall be responsible for the expansion of the research program and its continuance. I would like nothing better than to be able to do so under your guidance and with your help.

The Graduate School of Nursing provides a ready-at-hand instrument for the special training of superior nurses in the fields of "heart, cancer and stroke".

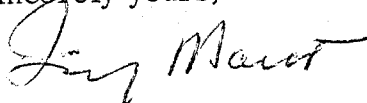
Doctor Ralph E. Snyder, the President and Dean, has a building program on the boards for new residence dorms, new service facilities and a 750 bed hospital to replace the present Flower and Fifth Avenue Hospital. He has been held up because of money problems and he has assured me that the building program can be altered to coincide with the needs of your program and with the desires of those, who with you, will implement it.

I have presented to you the picture of the Institution located at the edge of the Harlem area in the City of New York surrounded by one of the densest population masses of indigent people in this country; of an Institution ready, willing and able to undertake a tremendous part in implementing your program. All we need is the U.S. Government financial help to participate in your program in as extensive a manner as you will permit and in the closest cooperation so that your ideas can be carried out.

I am so eager personally, to have our Institution become one of your research and treatment centers that I shall be very happy to come to Houston at any time, should you wish it, to discuss this possibility with you.

Please accept again, my sincere congratulations and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,



Irving A. Sarot, M.D.  
Professor of Cardiac & Thoracic Surgery

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